

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMZMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7767

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (FRONCZAK, SANDRA)

SUBJ: W/W: SANDRA FRONCZAK

REF: STATE 233745

1. NBC TV REPORTER SI PEARLMAN AND TED FRONCZAK CAME TO EMBASSY OCTOBER 1 FOR INTERVIEW IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED NBC NEWS BROADCAST ON FRONCZAK CASE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6. EMBASSY HAD AGREED TO BACKGROUND INTERVIEW ON EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN THIS CASE, PLUS BRIEF FILMED STATEMENT BY CONSUL GENERAL ON WHAT CONSULAR SERVICES FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY.

2. BACKGROUND INTERVIEW WENT REASONABLY WELL. PEARLMAN HAD DONE HIS HOMEWORK WELL, AND WAS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF THE CASE FROM THE INTERVIEWS HE HAD ALREADY CONDUCTED IN CHILPANCINGO AND ACAPULCO. AFTER SOME HARD QUESTIONING IN THE BEGINNING FROM PEARLMAN, BACKED UP BY FRONCZAK, ON EMBASSY EFFORTS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE CASE, BOTH MEN APPEARED TO RELAX, AND THE DISCUSSION CENTERED MORE REALISTICALLY AROUND WHAT THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO AT THIS POINT TO PERSUADE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO KEEP THE INVESTIGATION GOING, TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS AS THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERS, AND TO TRY TO VERIFY WHAT IS ACTUALLY BEING DONE. AS IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HERE, FRONCZAK APPEARED PERSONALLY FRIENDLY AND EVEN APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY EFFORTS TO HELP, BUT CRITICAL OF EMBASSY'S RELUCTANCE TO BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATION.

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3. ON-CAMERA STATEMENT INVOLVED BRIEF, FACTUAL RESPONSE

TO QUESTION POSED BY PEARLMAN ON WHAT SERVICES AN EMBASSY
CAN PROVIDE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN DISTRESS IN A FOREIGN
COUNTRY. PEARLMAN FOLLOWED GROUND RULES AGREED UPON FOR
INTERVIEW AND ON-CAMERA STATEMENT.
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